

January 7, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

In November, the long-fought battle between Microsoft and the Justice Department finally saw a resolution. It was a resolution that was long overdue. Vast time and resources were spent to reach this resolution, and I see no need to continue further litigation.

The provisions in the resolution were extensive and included items that were not even a factor in the original lawsuit. The settlement also has some terms that are unprecedented for this type of lawsuit. For example, the Microsoft settlement requires Microsoft to provide to its competitors interface information about its own software. To enhance market competition, there are terms in this settlement that restrict Microsoft from entering into any agreements with computer manufacturers that would stifle competition. This will mean that hardware makers can install other products, keeping Microsoft responsive to the market for more efficient products.

The November settlement is plenty good enough, and I see no need to spend more taxpayer money further litigating this suit. I urge you to leave the suit as is. The economy would benefit the most if this issue was finally resolved. I thank you for your time and am sure that you will do what is best for all parties involved.

Sincerely,



Michael Payne
3402 Caraway Street
Cocoa, FL 32926